

19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday  
August 7, 2022  
“Everyone’s Journey”

Wis 18:6-9  
Heb 11:1...12  
Lk 12:35-40

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

There can be no doubt that life is a journey for everyone. However, it is not a journey like traveling from point A to point B on a map. In fact, most of us live for quite a while before we realize that we are on a very particular, personal journey. And the most challenging aspect of our life’s journey is, always, the unknown. We all have hopes, dreams, and plans – and our plans are made based upon those hopes and dreams.

Probably, the most important plan is that of our basic vocation. To be married and have a family of our own – or, to be a priest, religious or single person and serve the human family at large. Choosing marriage means finding the right spouse for what will be a mutually shared journey. Serving the human family means discovering a way that suits our particular talents and abilities.

However, in all of this, there is the unknown and the unforeseen. No matter who we are, or what direction we take, we cannot know, beforehand, all that we will face on our particular journey.

Consequently, we need both faith and hope. We need faith in ourselves and in whomever we share the journey. We needed a well-founded hope – a deep trust – that we will achieve the purpose and final outcome of the journey.

What most people never realize is that God is calling us on this journey. God has a plan and a purpose for each of us in the divine scheme of things. God gives us natural inclinations, abilities, and talents that will fit us for what the journey will entail. Moreover, God is working in the same way with whomever will share the journey with us.

The scriptures for today have much to teach us about whatever journey happens to be ours. Furthermore, having faith and hope in God will sustain us. It will do so when the faith and hope we have in ourselves is challenged or is in jeopardy!

Abraham left his homeland in search of a better life. At some point, he realized that God was calling and directing him. Abraham’s journey was geographical. But it was also a journey of personal growth – and it included his wife Sarah.

Abraham's faith became a personal relationship with God – and that relationship grew and matured over the years. Abraham believed and he trusted that somehow, someday, all that God promised would come to pass. Eventually, he and Sarah had a son in their extreme old age – Then to test Abraham's faith, God asked him to sacrifice Isaac. But Isaac was spared at the last moment – because Abraham had proved his faith!

The generations of offspring from Abraham and Sarah would become an uncountable number in the centuries that followed. And in Jesus, God's son would be enfleshed in the womb of Mary as part of that promised lineage!

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus has strong words about how we are to carry out the everyday works of our journey. We are God's children – but we are also God's servants. We serve God throughout our journey by doing the best we can in every situation. Certainly, we have made mistakes – Perhaps we wandered off the path and went in the wrong direction.

However, what is most important, is what we are doing with our life, our vocation, our journey – right now. Are we responding to the Father's call and the Spirit's direction everyday? Do we really work at implementing the Gospel and its values in our hearts and lives? Are we willing to make changes when we discover a new insight, are given a new challenge – or receive a new grace?

Jesus can come for us at any time. No one can know when their journey, here, will end. This is part of the great unknown that requires hope based on faith. For "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen!"

However, if we have done our best – If we have made amends for our sins – If we continue to struggle and strive for goodness and truth – Then, Jesus promises us that he will welcome us into the banquet celebration of Heaven. In some marvelous way, Jesus will seat us at his table – He will serve us at the Eucharistic Banquet in the Kingdom of Heaven!

And so, Brothers and Sisters, let us pray for steadfastness and resolve.  
May God continue to guide us on our own surprising journey.  
And may Jesus find us watchful, ready, and eager  
to receive him when he comes for us!

Amen.

August 7, 2022

Msgr. Russell G. Terra